



The BELL TOWER

A Newsletter of The Church at Litchfield Park

Spring 2019

A Message from Our New Senior Pastor



Rev. Lynne Kammeraad

I feel truly honored to serve as the Senior Pastor at The Church at Litchfield Park and am looking forward to serving, assisting, and equipping you for the work of ministry.

The overwhelming vote of support at the special congregational meeting, participation and attendance at my installation service, and your continued support is very humbling. Thank you hardly seems adequate, but thank you! What a blessing it is to serve with such a gifted ministry and administrative staff as well!

As conversations continue with the City Center Planning Committee, we look forward to seeing how we might strengthen our relationships with the city, Litchfield Elementary School District, Wigwam Resort, Historical Society and our neighbors. I hope The Church at Litchfield Park continues playing a key role in the strengthening of our community.

I am looking forward to engaging in a strategic planning process with our Ministry staff, Board of Directors, Council on Ministries, other key leaders, and you this year. Through this process, my hope is that we further clarify our mission and vision for ministry and how it might impact our worship, fellowship, service and facilities.

Our Council on Ministries is currently engaging in a process that involves creating an inventory of all the ministry opportunities at The Church at Litchfield Park. These inventories will be made available at every membership orientation, at the welcome booths, online, and the church office in the very near future. Hopefully they will serve as a helpful tool as people look for ways to connect in ministry and serve in meaningful ways.

One of the ways we connect and grow in community is through the sharing of meals together. Therefore, our Wednesday night community dinners are returning Wednesday, March 20 at 6:00 p.m. and will be hosted through Wednesday, May 8, when our Wednesday night ministries conclude for the

season. This is important because the tables we set at our community events, community dinner, in each other's homes, and in worship all connect to worship, fellowship, and service.

Because all that we do centers around serving the Lord, which we do by serving others, we will also be exploring if and how God might be calling us to partner with other organizations in the West Valley and broader Phoenix area to further enhance all that we do as a community of believers and extend our reach.

God is working and moving mightily in and through The Church at Litchfield Park. Therefore, there is much to celebrate. Pastor Kerri and I hope to celebrate all that God is doing in and through all of you more frequently this year and hope you continue to join us in celebrating God's goodness.

God bless you all,

Pastor Lynne

Lent and Easter at The Church at Litchfield Park

The 40-day season of Lent, a time of self-examination, reflection and preparation for the coming of Easter, began on March 6 (Ash Wednesday). The 40 days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.



During the season of Lent, the messages in worship will focus on Jesus' last words from the cross:

Sunday, March 10:

"Father, Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Sunday, March 17:

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Sunday, March 2:

"Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother" and "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Sunday, March 31: "I am Thirsty."

Palm Sunday, April 7

The Triumphal Entry and "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

The last week of Lent (Holy Week) the following will be offered:

Maunder Thursday Communion Service

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.

In the Sanctuary

The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment." On this Thursday before Easter we gather to remember Jesus' Last Supper with his followers.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Friday, April 19 , 6:30 p.m.

In the Sanctuary

"Tenebrae" from the Latin meaning "darkness or shadows." It is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that typically includes the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m., Souers Hall

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 21

All services will be hosted in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunrise Service

6:00 a.m. in Palm Court

Featuring a handbell processional and our Chancel Choir.

Flowering of the Cross

8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m. services

Bring flowers from your garden (we will also have flowers available) for this beautiful tradition.

Easter Worship Services

8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.

Featuring our Chancel Choir with a brass quintet and 10:45 a.m. featuring our Praise Team and a brass quintet.

Nursery Care is available at all worship services except the Sunrise Service.

Farewell Pastor Dale

In mid-October, Pastor Dale submitted his resignation effective December 31. Dale stated in his letter to the congregation, "Though the rewards of this service has filled and sustained me, after a long run, I am feeling the effects of the years accumulating." He went on to say, "I have many interests I hope to pursue but no clear direction as of now. I believe that after a time of sabbatical, a future direction and plan will emerge."

Dale was the second longest-serving Senior Pastor in the history of the church. We don't have exact numbers but a good estimate is that Dale performed 100 or more baptisms, 100 or more memorial services, 600 or more sermons, welcomed 600 or more new members, made countless hospital and home visits, and prepared meals for many thousands. He faithfully represented the church to the local governments and service organizations.

Dale led the ministry believing that a healthy church is one that focuses on worship, service, and fellowship. When you look around at what our congregation does you can see how powerful this concept is. The congregation



enthusiastically serves one another as we share life together in fellowship and worship. Local and worldwide service organizations are also supported with money and volunteer work.

Pastor Dale was honored on January 13 for his 14 years of service, 10 of which were as Senior Pastor. At each of the three services Dale and his wife Kimberly were honored and presented with a

replica of our stunning faceted glass windows. After each service they were in Souers Hall as the congregation lined up to show their love and appreciation for the positive impact they have made.

From a grateful congregation we thank him, pray for him, and wish him success in his future endeavors.

Men's Christian Service Fellowship



Beginning this year, Men's Christian Service Fellowship (MCSF) is meeting on the second Tuesday of each month starting with dinner at 6 pm. Along with church projects, the men are on a journey, one that will deepen

their relationship with Jesus while deepening their relationships with each other and the church. This six-episode bible study is video driven paired with biblical teaching. It is the goal of the MCSF to provide opportunities for fellowship and service for men of all ages. The meetings are informational and informal. There is something available for all men, regardless of the amount of church experience, either great or small. Men are given the opportunity to serve God, one another and the Church while growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.



The Church at Litchfield Park Thrift Store provides the funding for the Women's Christian Service Fellowship (WCSF). WCSF provides many services, grants and donations to the church and our community. Some of those are Open Arms, Homeless Youth Connection, Mission of Mercy, New Life Center, Hands, Educational Retreats, Scholarships, Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Enrichments, the Circles, the Coffee Fellowship, and Agua Fria Food bank. The Thrift Shop is a vital link to our community providing quality merchandise at fair prices. The Thrift Shop is open the first Saturday and the third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The Thrift Shop is closed in June and July. The day before each sale day is volunteer work day. That is also the day that donations are accepted. If you need to donate at another time please contact the church office. The Thrift Shop is staffed by volunteers. Volunteers and donations are greatly needed and much appreciated. Please contact the church office or sign up in the breezeway! Donations and volunteers are vital since they enable the WCSF to continue providing funding for our church and community services.



The Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix will be presenting their Spring concert series in the sanctuary from 3 to 5 p.m. on April 28. Patriotic music and other genres, such as spiritual and folk music, that salute America, will be presented. Randall Thompson, Steven Foster and Cole Porter are among the composers to be included. The performance will pay tribute to those who have and are serving in the United States Armed Services. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for Seniors/Students and children are free. Go online to Orpheus.org and click on 'Tickets' at the top.

Our Board of Directors and Council on Ministries

So many gifted individuals serve tirelessly on our board and council. Please be sure to thank them all for their service the next time you see them and please keep them in your prayers.

Retiring from the Board of Directors this year is past President, Jack Wetzel and Long Range Planning Chairperson, Eric Jameson. Our incoming board member this year is Meredith Stucky as our Long Range Planning Chairperson and finishing Jack Wetzel's term as President is Ken Martin.

Included below is a list of our board members (those newly elected and continuing to serve), the year they complete their term, as well as the position they hold on the Board of Directors.

CLASS OF 2019

- Rob Gimbl (Personnel)
- Al Peterson (Stewardship)
- Jack Rataezyk (Missions)
- Jerry Rounds (Garden of Memories)

CLASS OF 2020

- Joe Bemis (Property Maintenance)
- Ken Martin (President)
- Kim Moran (Treasurer)
- Heidi Vasiloff (Records & Insurance)

CLASS OF 2021

- Travis Allen (Vice-President)
- Lisa Hegarty (Secretary)
- Meredith Stucky (Long Range Planning)

Our Council on Ministries Retirees 2019:

Dolores Broski (*Head of Deacons*) and Phil Easley (*Worship*). Our incoming Council on Ministries members include Rob Gimbl (*Head of Deacons*) and Karen VanHooser (*Worship*).

Below is a list of our council members (those newly elected and continuing to serve and the position the area of ministry they represent.

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

- Marcy Clement (*Membership*)
- Susanne Boyer (*Women's Christian Service Fellowship*)
- Rob Gimbl (*Men's Christian Service Fellowship*)
- Aimee Yamamori (*Communications*)
- Nana Hamlin (*Welcome Ministries*)
- Mary Morrison (*Council Secretary*)
- Rob Gimbl (*Head of Deacons*)
- Fellowship: Open
- Karen VanHooser (*Worship*)
- Meredith Stucky (*Historian*)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.



Welcome

New Church Members!

William (Bill) and Connie Septer enjoy golf and fishing and plan to be part of the Litchfield Park Church as usher/greeters, office volunteers, administration support and worship preparation support.

Robert Hughes and Linda Hoffert-Hughes and family enjoy movies, walking, craft events, fishing, hunting and spending time with their three adult children and four grandchildren. They would like to volunteer in the church office and participate in bible study and women's fellowship.

Betsy Dane is a self-employed grant writer. She has two "children" and one grandchild. Betsy would like to work with church publications, traditional choir/vocalist and women's fellowship.

Alan W. Cox, II is retired from the Navy and has a son in high school. Alan would like to participate in men's fellowship and adult bible study. He would also like to volunteer on the welcome team.

Alison and Joe England are proud parents of son Alex and daughters Annika and Kelsey. We look forward to learning more about the England family!



Internationally-Known Augsburg Singers Perform

As far back as 1885 until 1961 Augsburg College had a Gospel Quartet that traveled during the summer break. In 1993, a chorus of former quartet members came together to sing for Homecoming and have been together ever since. Today, not all of the singers are from Augsburg, but the majority of are. Reflecting the tradition, the Centennial Singers present concerts that personalize a Christian faith and encourage listeners to establish a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ. The men find joy in singing songs that have musical excellence—and it shows. On Friday, February 15, the group made their third visit to our church and sang 22 uplifting songs including a patriotic medley. They are a self-funded organization, but the free-will offering at the event yielded more than \$1300 and will be used to offset their organizational expenses. This year, we were blessed with the President of Augsburg College, Paul C. Pribbenow in the audience. Each year he travels to one of the concerts and was delighted with The Church at Litchfield Park. It was reported that he called back to the college and raved about our church and its hospitality. Thank you to Lisa and Alan Warne for cooking a delicious chicken dinner for the choir and their wives. They were most appreciative.